

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, the written description portion of the specification, the abstract of the disclosure, and claims 1-14 have been amended. New claims 15-17 have been added. Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 15, and 17 are independent. The sole rejection is respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). Claims 1-14 have been amended to more fully comply with U.S. practice. New claims 15-17 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Kolbe and Vijuk

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,913,764 to Kolbe et al. (hereinafter "Kolbe") in view of US 5,044,873 to Vijuk.

The rejection of claims 1-14 under § 103(a) based on Kolbe and Vijuk is respectfully traversed. The combined disclosures of Kolbe and Vijuk would not have rendered obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

By way of review, a problem associated with prior art "format-specific glue application" devices is that the "glue transfer makes it necessary to provide and subsequently clean a plurality of glue transfer components, for instance the format rollers and the format parts" (instant specification page 2, lines 9-11). That is, a conventional gluing station has a roller that is supplied with glue by a glue roller or other glue storing and transfer components. These components must be aligned for each specific paper bag format. The alignment of the components is a time consuming process.

Therefore, an object of Applicants' invention is to "further improve the design of the base insert device in such a way that these glue transfer components can be totally omitted or at least reduced in number while still enabling a format-specific glue application" (specification page 2, lines 12-15). An important feature of the instant invention is that the glue outlets are mounted on at least two application heads. Another feature is that at least one of these application heads is movable relative to the other application head. The aim of these features is to adapt the glue outlets to the desired format of glue application.

Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 defines a device in which "at least one of the gluing stations include[es] glue outlet openings which may be selectively supplied with glue such that the selection of the glue outlet openings defines a format of the glue application, and said glue outlet openings [are] provided with at least two application heads of which at least one application head is displaceable in a direction orthogonal to a feed direction of the sheets and/or the folded bases such that as a result of the displacement, a relative movement of the two application heads occurs."

The combined disclosures of Kolbe and Vijuk do not teach all of Applicants' claim features. The examiner acknowledges that Kolbe does not teach "adjustable glue heads" (Office Action page 2). The examiner asserts in pertinent part that Vijuk "teaches [that] an adjustable gluing station comprises glue outlet openings (45, fig. 16) provided with at least applications head."

Applicants respectfully disagree. The disclosure of Vijuk does not rectify the above-described deficiency of Kolbe. While Vijuk may disclose "adhesive applicator means 45" (see Vijuk Figure 16), there is no teaching of Applicants' claimed feature that "said glue outlet openings [are] provided with at least two application heads of which at least one application head is displaceable in a direction orthogonal to a feed direction of the sheets and/or the folded bases *such that as a result of the*

displacement, a relative movement of the two application heads occurs." That is, Vijuk may teach separate glue outlets, but not Applicants' claimed gluing station that includes movable application heads with glue outlets. Since Applicants' glue outlets are mounted in heads, it is not necessary to move each glue outlet separately as would be the case with the teaching of Vijuk. Thus, the combined disclosures of Kolbe and Vijuk do not teach all of Applicants' claim features.

Furthermore, there is simply no teaching in either Kolbe or Vijuk that would have led one to select the references and combine them in a way that would produce the invention defined by any of Applicants' pending claims. Kolbe and Vijuk are each directed to a different type of packaging. Vijuk is directed to an apparatus for stacking folded sheets on edge to make "outserts" which bear information relating to pharmaceutical packages, not to paper bags which are mainly used for heavy building materials as disclosed by Kolbe.

Therefore, the combined disclosures of Kolbe and Vijuk would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1. Claims 3-14 are allowable because they depend from claim 1, and because they each include an additional feature not taught by the combination of Kolbe and Vijuk.

New claims 15-17 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. New claims

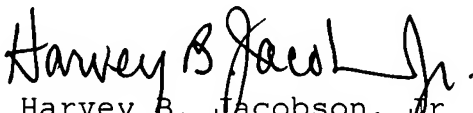
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/563,860
Atty. Docket No.: P70980US0

15-17 are also allowable. Since independent claims 15 and 17 each include at least the features discussed above with respect to the rejection over Kolbe and Vijuk, the combination of references neither anticipates nor would have rendered obvious the base insert device defined by any of new claims 15-17.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 20, 2007